

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following title before paragraph [001].

Background of the Invention

Please add the following title before paragraph [0016].

Brief Summary of Some of the Preferred Embodiments

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following paragraph.

Therefore, according to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided a probe assembly for use in the extraction of analytes from a sample, which probe includes an elongate cylinder portion which is arranged to rotate about its longitudinal axis, and having thereon one or more vanes~~veins~~ extending away from the cylinder portion.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following paragraph.

The vane~~vein~~ may be in the form of paddles, shoulders, blades or the like, extending from the cylinder portion. However, in a particularly preferred embodiment, the vane~~vein~~ is arranged to extend substantially around the cylinder portion so as to form a spiral thread (typically extending along the length of the cylinder portion).

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following paragraph.

It is envisaged that the elongate cylinder and/or the vanes~~veins~~ may be coated with a sorbent coating such as a polymethylsiloxane, polyethylene glycol, silicone, polyimide, octadecylchlorosilane, polymethylvinyl chlorosilane, liquid crystal polyacrylates, grafted self organised monomolecular layers and inorganic coating materials. However, it should be noted that the choice of coating may be specific to the analyte being analysed.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following paragraph.

Accordingly, there is provided a probe assembly for use in the extraction of analytes from a sample, which probe includes an elongate cylinder portion which is arranged to rotate about its longitudinal axis, and having thereon one or more vanesveins extending away from the cylinder portion, the elongate cylinder and/or the vanesveins are coated with a sorbent material.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following paragraph.

Accordingly, there is further provided a probe assembly for use in the extraction of analytes from a sample, which probe includes an elongate cylinder portion which is arranged to rotate about its longitudinal axis, and having thereon one or more vanesveins extending away from the cylinder portion, the elongate cylinder portion is substantially hollow along its length and includes one or more apertures or perforations.

Please replace paragraph [0033] with the following paragraph.

The present invention therefore further extends to a probe assembly for use in the extraction of analytes from a sample, which probe includes an elongate cylinder portion which is arranged to rotate about its longitudinal axis, and having thereon one or more vanesveins extending away from the cylinder portion, wherein the elongate cylinder portion is sheathed by a sheath member.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following paragraph.

Accordingly, there is further provided a probe assembly for use in the extraction of analytes from a sample, which probe includes an elongate cylinder portion which is arranged to rotate about its longitudinal axis and having thereon one or more vanesveins extending away from the cylinder portion, and a heating device.

Please add the following title before paragraph [0041].

Brief Description of the Drawings

Please add the following title before paragraph [0048].

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following paragraph.

Referring to the Figures where like numerals have been used to represent like parts, there is provided a probe assembly generally indicated by the numeral 1. The probe assembly 1 comprises a stainless steel cylinder 2 having a spiral vanevein 3 about its outer surface. The spiral vanevein is coated with a sorbent coating.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following paragraph.

Threaded connector 11 permits inter change of coated section on vanevein 3. This is particularly advantageous as it may be desirable to change the coating on the cylinder 2, thereby rendering the cylinder 2 substantially reusable and not disposable.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following paragraph.

The cylinder 2 is rotated in sample receptacle 12 so as to ensure efficiency of adsorption of analyte onto the coated surface of vanevein 3.

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following paragraph.

After a predetermined period of time, cylinder 2 is removed from sample receptacle 12 and introduced to cleaning station 8. Cleaning fluid enters probe assembly via fluid inlet 17 so as to wash debris or foreign material from coated surface of vanevein 3 through drain 18 (whilst permitting adsorbed analyte to remain on the coated surface). During the wash phase, the cylinder 2 may be rotated to assist efficiency of washing.

Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following paragraph.

Following the washing phase, the cylinder 2 is dried to remove excess moisture (which would have adverse affects during analysis by GC or GC/MS). The cylinder 2 is dried by forcing gas such as nitrogen through inlet 10, around coated surface 3 and out of outlet 18. At this time heating element 30 may also be turned on so as to assist in evaporation of water. Alternatively, the cylinder 2 may be rotated so as to obtain a 'spin-dry' effect.

Please add the following title after paragraph [0060].

Claims